

BAKERSFIELD, CA – Today, Congressman Kevin McCarthy is pleased to announce his nominations to the United States Service Academies. Nominees were selected in a competitive process in which a number of highly qualified 22nd Congressional District high school students applied for consideration.

“I am proud to nominate three great students from our District who display the core values of honor and courage in their commitment to serve our country,” said Congressman McCarthy. “I congratulate each of them in their pursuit of becoming future leaders in our military.”

The following students received a principal nomination from Congressman McCarthy:

United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO

- Allison Marx, 17, of Bakersfield, California, is a senior at Stockdale High School where she has maintained a 3.9 GPA. Allison is an active member of the California Scholarship Federation and Venture Crew. She has played soccer for the Stockdale Mustangs all four years of high school. Outside of school, she plays for a club soccer team, and coaches and referees for A.Y.S.O.

United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD

- Westen Pursley, 19, of Lancaster, California, currently attends Ventura College and is a graduate of Desert Christian High School. In high school, he was a member of National Honor Society and Mathletes. He played baseball and basketball for Desert Christian High School and was a captain on both teams. Westen is a cadet in AFROTC and is active as a dedicated church worship leader. He plans to pursue a career in aeronautical engineering, aerospace engineering, civil engineering, and physics. In addition to receiving a principal nomination to the United States Naval Academy, Westen received a competing alternate nomination to the United States Air Force Academy.

United States Military Academy, West Point, NY

- Stephen Wight, 17, of Bakersfield, California, attends Stockdale High School where he has maintained a GPA of 3.74 and received a score of 1450 on the SAT. Stephen participates in Academic Decathlon and was awarded the Gold Medal in Music, Science, Economics, Interview and in the Overall Competitor category locally. He is also a member of the California Mathematics League, Forensics, Chess Club and Libertarian Club. Stephen is a member of the Stockdale Mustangs Cross Country team and also competes in 5K road races, cycling and fencing.

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